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Letter dated 23 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the pleasure to enclose the Madrid Declaration (see annex), adopted at the International Conference on a Culture of Peace, held from 11 to 13 December 2000. Inspired by the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/243 of 13 September 1999, and motivated by the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), proclaimed by the Assembly in its resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998, the Madrid Declaration expresses the resolve to work tirelessly for a transition from a culture of power and force to a culture of peace and non-violence. The Declaration promotes actions in the areas identified in the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace — on education, sustainable economic and social development, human rights and democracy, gender perspective, democratic governance and free flow of information and knowledge, among others.

It is requested that the Declaration be issued as a document of the United Nations under the item entitled "Culture of peace" on the provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Anwarul Karim **Chowdhury**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 23 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Declaration of Madrid

International Conference on a Culture of Peace

Madrid, 11-13 December 2000

We, the participants in the International Conference on a Culture of Peace,

Convinced that the transition from a culture dominated by violence towards a Culture of Peace requires the mobilization of society as a whole, at the national and the international level, in order that we all, individually and collectively, become aware of the great challenges of the 21st century,

Inspired by the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 13 September 1999, which summarizes the essential principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Also motivated by the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations of 19 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2000-2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World,

Taking into account the resolution of the United Nations of 16 November 1998 proclaiming the year 2001 as International United Nations Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations, as a corollary and follow-up to the year 2000, International Year for the Culture of Peace,

Further taking into account the resolution unanimously adopted by the Commission on Human Rights in its session of 26 April 2000, whereby the High Commissioner was charged with organizing and coordinating a Forum on a Culture of Peace for the study and consideration of promoting, protecting and implementing all human rights which would enable the development of a culture of peace,

Recalling the special relevance of the Hague Appeal for Peace, issued in May 1999,

Aware of the need — as underscored by the General Assembly when solemnly proclaiming its Declaration on a Culture of Peace — for the participation of Governments, international organizations, civil society and the media in promoting and strengthening a Culture of Peace in the new millennium,

Further aware that a Culture of Peace is based on "adhering to the principles of freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, pluralism, cultural diversity, dialogue and understanding at all levels of society and among nations" (A, art. 1, I)* and that "progress in the fuller development of a culture of peace comes about through values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life conducive to the promotion of peace among individuals, groups and nations" (A, art. 2),

Desiring to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, with particular emphasis on the following points:

(a) *Education*: education at all levels is one of the principal means to build a culture of peace (A, art. 4); reinvigorate national and international cooperation to promote the goals of education for all (B, art. 9, a); ensure that children from an early age be protected and benefit from education values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life (B, art. 9, b); and expand initiatives undertaken by institutions of higher education (B, art. 9, n);

(b) *Sustainable social and economic development*: eradicate poverty through national and international activities (B, art. 10, a) that can reinforce the endogenous capacity to reduce economic and social inequalities (B, art. 10, b); promote effective, fair and lasting solutions aimed at development related to external debt (B, art. 10, c); and ensure that the development process is participatory and complete (B, art. 10, e);

(c) *Human rights and democracy*: fully implement the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (B, art. 11, a); encourage the development of national plans of action for the promotion and protection of all human rights (B, art. 11, b); and disseminate and promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at all levels (B, art. 11, f);

(d) *Gender perspective*: promote measures that guarantee equality between men and women by adopting economic, social and political solutions (B, art. 12, d); and foster all necessary measures to eradicate all forms of violence against women;

(e) *Democratic governance at national and international levels*: measures intended to promote democratic principles and practices at all levels of formal, internal and non-formal education (B, art. 13, b), as well as among public officials (B, art. 13, c);

(f) *Behaviour*: contribute to the implementation of the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year of Tolerance (1995) (B, art. 14, a); support the attainment of the goals of the International Decade for the World's Indigenous Peoples (B, art. 14, e); promote tolerance and solidarity with refugees and displaced persons (B, art. 14, f), as well as migrants (B, art. 14, g); and promote understanding, tolerance and cooperation among all peoples through the appropriate use of new technologies and dissemination of information (B, art. 14, h);

(g) *Free flow of information and knowledge*: ensure freedom of the press (B, art. 15, d); assist in resolving the problem of violence in the media (B, art. 15, e); support the work of the media in promoting a culture of peace

* References in parentheses indicate the relevant articles of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/243 of 13 September 1999.

(B, art. 15, a); and increase efforts to promote sharing of information on new technologies, including the Internet (B, art. 15, f);

(h) *Institutions*: encourage and strengthen partnerships among the various actors for a worldwide movement for a culture of peace (B/A, art. 6), facilitating the sharing of information among them (B/A, art. 7);

(i) Combat terrorism, organized crime, corruption as well as the production, trafficking and consumption of drugs (B, art. 13, e);

We undertake to do everything within our power — within the framework of our institutions, our personal activities and through an ever-growing interactive network — to promote the aforesaid actions;

We unanimously agree that it is imperative to find new means for establishing a lasting and global peace through actions to prevent conflicts, tackling their very roots in order to overcome the causes that give rise to them;

As underscored in the United Nations Millennium Assembly held at the United Nations, *we declare* the necessity of promoting a global plan of endogenous development, based on four new contracts that have been discussed during this Conference: a new social contract that recognizes people as the protagonists and beneficiaries of economic growth; a new natural or environmental contract, which includes a long-term view and the urgent adoption of measures to protect the state of the world's ecology; a new cultural contract, to prevent cultural uniformity and the loss of the infinite diversity and creativity which are mankind's common wealth; and a new moral or ethical contract, to ensure the full implementation of values and principles which comprise the foundation of our individual and collective code of conduct. In summary, we seek to promote global endogenous development, based on knowledge and internal capacities;

We consider the fight to eradicate poverty as an ethical commitment that guides development towards the globalization of human dignity;

We manifest our conviction that only through measures implemented on a global scale, strengthening the United Nations as the world's democratic framework, can present trends be put right;

We warn of the need for urgency in adopting these measures; and

We resolve to work tirelessly for the transition from a culture of power and force to a culture of peace and non-violence, of dialogue and tolerance, which is the best contribution mankind can make to the future of new generations.